

## Record of Officer Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	To approve expenditure up to £165,150 for the detailed design, planning and construction oversight for 3 wetland sites, and to enter into a contract with the Wye and Usk Foundation.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Service Director Environment, Highways and Waste
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	A cabinet member decision to commission the work and the delegated authority to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme was taken on 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2020.  <a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7049</a>
<b>Ward:</b>	All wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	Head of Service for Environment, Climate Emergency & Waste, Service Manager for Built & Natural Environment, Commercial Services Team.
<b>Decision made:</b>	To delegate authority to the Senior Project Manager to manage spend of up to £165,150 (including £15,000 contingency) for specialist consultancy services to undertake the detailed design of up to three wetland sites, to manage the three schemes through the planning consent and permitting processes and to oversee construction of the three wetland schemes for quality and compliance.  To enter into a contract with the Wye and Usk Foundation to provide the surveys described above.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>As set out in the cabinet member decision, the creation of wetland areas will, in addition to improving the water quality of the River Lugg, positively contribute toward the delivery of the environmental and economic priorities within the County Plan 2020-2024; enhancing local biodiversity, enabling sustainable housing growth in the north of the county and reducing carbon emissions through carbon sequestration.</p> <p>The benefits of wetlands in releasing prospective housing development currently unable to complete the planning process because of phosphate load will be of particular value in terms of the local construction economy and the delivery of established housing targets.</p> <p>Where acquisition of land is being pursued in order to develop phosphorous-reducing wetland schemes, essential pre-requisites to construction include a detailed design process defining the form and specification of the wetland, the gaining of planning consent and certainty over necessary environmental permits. There is a requirement therefore to appoint a consultancy with the capability to provide this service if the schemes are to progress.</p> <p>Wetland design is a specialist and developing area and there is a critical requirement that the design be able to successfully quantify with appropriate certainty the level of phosphorous reduction deliverable. It is</p>

	<p>essential therefore that the organisation appointed has the necessary expertise and experience in this field.</p> <p>The Wye and Usk Foundation were selected through a competitive open-tender procurement process to secure best value in terms of capability and cost.</p> <p>There is a need to progress these schemes without delay in order to meet expenditure targets associated with grant funding.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>There is a medium risk of additional cost should unforeseen factors arise during the design or the construction phase requiring additional input from the design consultant. However there has been due diligence during the previous site investigation and preliminary design phase with the aim of minimising the likelihood of such unforeseen events. The work of the consultant will be closely monitored through regular progress and technical meetings and other feedback.</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>Not to proceed with the appointment or associated expenditure. This is not recommended as the wetland schemes in question would not be able to proceed to the delivery stage and the benefits of the schemes would not be realised.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	<p>None</p>

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

**Signed:**

**Print Name:** Phil Crossland

**Job Title:** Interim Service Director – Highways, Environment & Waste